



Department Updates

Register of Deeds

Margo Katterhagen Register of Deeds

We recently signed a contract with VitalChek that will allow Barron County to accept online vital record applications! This will be a huge benefit for out-of-the state applicants needing a copy of their birth or marriage certificates ASAP.

Also, we will be accepting e-recordings in the very near future! This will speed up the recording time of documents

and will eliminate the expense of Barron County mailing back documents once they are recorded.

We have approved the quality of the back scanning images, so we are moving into the next phase of the huge back scanning/back indexing project, that will get Barron County's documents online from 1964 to present day!

As of Sept 1st, all death certificates are being processed online. No more paper! We

have been working very closely with the local Funeral Directors on getting this process streamlined. We are seeing less corrections and faster turn-around times.



Highway Department

Mark Servi Highway Commissioner

The Barron County Highway Department has had a very productive construction season. Time is running short to complete our projects, but we should have everything wrapped up before the weather sets in and ends the construction season.

Many projects were completed for various towns, cities and villages. These projects were both maintenance and construction project.

On the county system, along with the normal routine items such as mowing, crack filling and pothole patching, we performed maintenance shouldering and chip sealing on 14 miles of County Highway. Chip sealing is a proven preventative maintenance process that restores the surface of the road and adds life to the pavement. Pavement preservation is key to insure that we get the useful life out of our road system. We perform chip seal annu-

ally on the sections of our Highway System that warrant that treatment. Without proper pavement preservation, the investment made would not be completely realized. The Department strives to provide a well maintained highway system.

We are currently working on CTH O, from CTH W south to CTH D. The section of CTH O from USH 8 south to about ¼ mile south of CTH OO is being constructed utilizing federal funding. The remainder of the project is locally funded by Barron County. The project is scheduled to be completed in mid-November.

This project is the first project constructed by Barron County utilizing warm mix asphalt. This is a relatively new process that ultimately results in the material being heated to a lower temperature than we have used in the past. This means that we are using less energy to heat the material, resulting in less green house gases being produced. The material also is easier to compact. The engineer on the pro-

ject has told us that he has never seen density readings as high as what he is seeing in our operation. That means that we are getting good compaction and will have a strong, long lasting pavement.

The CTH O project is also the first county road project we have used the "safety edge" on. This is simply a shoe that is attached to the paver that yields an angled shoulder edge as opposed to a straight edge. This has been proven to help prevent certain types of accidents that result when a vehicle leaves the road and then attempts to recover but overcorrects and ends up crossing the centerline.

We are utilizing recycled asphalt in our asphalt mix. Using recycle reduces the cost of the asphalt mix. We also hooked the asphalt plant onto Natural Gas for our fuel source. These changes in our operation are helping us to provide a very cost effective paving operation.